

who will soon be retiring from public service. Helen L. Westbrook currently works in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In December, she will complete a career that has spanned many years of distinguished service to our country.

This is a special occasion for me and the Kennedy family, as Helen is truly one of our own. In 1955, as a Senator, my brother John F. Kennedy visited Chicopee, Massachusetts, and delivered an address about a recent visit he had made to Poland and Eastern Europe. Like many other young Americans of that time, Helen heard and heeded my brother's call to public service. She moved to Washington, D.C., and in January 1956, she began work as a secretary in my brother's Senate office. Following the 1960 election, Jack asked Helen to join his White House Staff, and she served as a Secretarial Assistant in the Office of the President until January 1963.

Helen then decided she wanted to gain experience working overseas, and for the next year and a half, she served in our U.S. Embassy in Rome. She then returned to America, and at the request of Jackie Kennedy, she came back to work with our family. For the next few years, she served as an assistant to Jackie in New York City. She watched Caroline and John F. Kennedy, Jr. grow up, and went on to marry and raise a family of her own.

In 1992, Helen rejoined the Federal Government and started a career with NOAA. She has been a good friend to Massachusetts and has called for a balanced approach to fisheries management. She has been a skillful advocate for assistance to New England fishermen and coastal communities, and all of us who know her are proud of her achievements and her friendship.

Helen Westbrook is a kind, thoughtful person who truly cares about people. She has brought professionalism, wisdom and dedication to each position that she has held. She is a valued and loyal friend of the Kennedy family.

We don't have enough Helen Westbrooks in government and in the world. She is a shining example of the wonderful people who answered President Kennedy's call to serve their country. I'm proud of her contribution to public service, and I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.●

CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2000

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, on October 20, 1999, the Senate passed the conference report for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies appro-

priations bill for fiscal year 2000. I thank the conferees for their hard work in putting forth this legislation which provides federal funding for fighting crime, enhancing drug enforcement, and responding to threats of terrorism. This bill also addresses the shortcomings of the immigration process, funds the operation of the judicial system, facilitates commerce throughout the United States, and fulfills the needs of the State Department and various other agencies.

For many years, I have tried to cut wasteful and unnecessary spending from the annual appropriations bills—with only limited success. I must admit. Nonetheless, I will continue my fight to curb wasteful pork-barrel spending, and I regret that I must again come forward this year to object to the millions of unrequested, low-priority, wasteful spending in this conference report. This legislation includes \$535 million in pork-barrel spending. This is an unacceptable amount of money to spend on low-priority, unrequested, wasteful projects. Congress must curb its appetite for such unbridled spending.

Pork-barrel spending today not only robs well-deserving programs of much needed funds, it also jeopardizes social security reform, potential tax cuts, and our fiscal well-being into the next century.

The multitude of earmarks buried in this proposal will further burden the American taxpayers. While the amounts associated with each individual earmark may not seem extravagant, taken together, they represent a serious diversion of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars to low priority programs at the expense of numerous programs that have undergone the appropriate merit-based selection process. Congress and the American public must be made aware of the magnitude of wasteful spending endorsed by this body.

For the Department of Commerce, there is \$400,000 for swordfish research. For the Department of Justice, there is \$1 million for the Nevada National Judicial College. For the Department of State, there is \$12.5 million for the East-West Center in Hawaii, and for the Small Business Administration, there is \$200,000 for Rural Enterprises, Inc., in Durant, Oklahoma. I have compiled a list on my Senate website of these examples and other numerous add-ons and earmarks in the report.

Mr. President, we must continue to work to cut unnecessary and wasteful spending so we can begin to pay down our debt and save billions in interest payments. We have an obligation to ensure that Congress spends taxpayers' hard-earned dollars prudently to protect our balanced budget and to protect the projected budget surpluses. The American public cannot understand why we continue to earmark these huge amounts of money to locality spe-

cific special interests at a time when we are trying to cut the cost of government and return more dollars to the people.

Mr. President, it is a sad commentary on the state of politics today that the Congress cannot curb its appetite to earmark funds for programs that are obviously wasteful, unnecessary, or unfair. Unfortunately, however, Members of Congress have demonstrated time and again their willingness to fund programs that serve their narrowly tailored interest at the expense of the national interest.●

DOWNRIVER GUIDANCE CLINIC TRIBUTE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, It is my great pleasure to recognize and honor the Downriver Guidance Clinic as they celebrate their First Downriver Guidance Clinic Week November 7 through November 13, 1999.

For forty-one years the Downriver Guidance Clinic has been at the forefront of providing exceptional health care, mental health services and support to those people who are in need. The Downriver Guidance Clinic has enhanced the quality of life for children, adults and families in the Downriver community. Their programs have built foundations of support for children with behavioral problems, first time parents, teenage mothers, and adults who need help coping with unexpected changes in life.

What is truly remarkable about the Downriver Guidance Center are the innovative and progressive programs they provide. The Opportunity Center combines traditional therapy, volunteer mentoring, and other activities to assist young people who need extra help interacting with parents, teachers and peers. Their Center for Excellence focuses on evaluating and assessing programs as a means for improved services. The Downriver Guidance Center programs continue to reach out to the community by providing employment programs that help ease chronically unemployed people into the workforce. The Center also provides an early childhood development which encourages good emotional and physical health ensuring that children enter school ready to learn.

The accomplishments and work of the Downriver Guidance Center are to be commended. Their impact on the Downriver Community of the future is immeasurable. I applaud the Downriver Guidance Center for all the help they give others as they strive to meet the ever changing needs of the community they serve.●

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1883

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I understand that H.R.